

FACING THE FUTURE FORUM

Supporting Each Other in the Coming Century

Convention Services Northwest • 1809 Seventh Avenue, Suite 1414 • Seattle, WA 98103 • Phone 206-292-9198 • Fax 206-292-0559 • www.regweb.com/csnw/ftff

Dec. 6, 2002

News media, contact: Steve Williams, 360-902-7569

Facing the Future Forum:

The conversation begins: Hundreds engage in dialogue about the future of human services in Washington

SEATTLE – Six hundred people from diverse parts of the state and the community gathered at the Seattle Westin Hotel today to launch a conversation on the future of health and social services in challenging times.

Bob Watt, a Boeing executive and co-chair of the Facing the Future Forum, said, “It was a remarkable gathering of people from a wide variety of walks of life. This was properly framed as a beginning of a conversation. I sensed a lot of energy for continuing the conversation around the state.”

The Forum was sponsored by United Way of King County, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Casey Family Programs, Department of Social and Health Services, Seattle University, The Seattle Foundation, Philanthropy Northwest, and the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

“For me, the best outcome of this day was the conversation among people who do not normally have the opportunity to talk with one another about how we take care of our most vulnerable people,” said **Phyllis Campbell**, former CEO and current chair of the Community Board of the US Bank of Washington. Important results can take place “when people come together around issues that matter to them,” she added.

Pulitzer-prize winning Washington Post columnist **David Broder** cautioned the participants not to look to the federal government for financial assistance for state and local programs. The nation’s capital and President Bush are operating on a war footing as a result of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, he said. Broder applauded Washington and the Forum participants for looking comprehensively at the needs and the resources available to meet the needs. He encouraged leaders to reach out and include in the dialogue people who are distrustful of government.

Dennis Braddock, DSHS Secretary and co-chair said, “DSHS cannot begin to meet all the demand for social and health services alone.” He said the best hope is for many partners to leverage their combined resources. “It is essential that we have partners in the communities across the state. With the support of local partners, we will bring the discussion started here today to communities throughout the state.”

Forum sponsors are planning to produce a comprehensive report of the proceedings in the next several weeks. It will be available on the Facing the Future Forum Web site. <http://www.regweb.com/csnw/ftff>.



Facing the Future Forum Sponsors

United Way of King County
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Casey Family Programs
Dept. of Social and Health Services
Seattle University
The Seattle Foundation
Annie E. Casey Foundation
Philanthropy Northwest

Facing the Future Forum Advisors

The Honorable Serjio Armijo
Pierce County Superior Court
Peter Berliner
The Paul G. Allen Charitable Foundation
Dennis Braddock, Forum Co-Chair
Dept. of Social and Health Services
Phil Bussey
Washington Roundtable
Phyllis Campbell
US Bank of Washington
Jon Fine
United Way of King County
Jaime Garcia
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Judy Hedden
League of Women Voters of Washington
James Kelly
Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle
Steve Leahy
Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce
Russell Lidman
Seattle University
Mike Ormsby
Preston, Gates & Ellis, LLP
The Honorable Mary Place
City of Yakima
Joan Poliak
Casey Family Programs
The Honorable Marilyn Scott
Upper Skagit Tribe
Mike Shelton
Island County Commissioner
Alice Shobe
Philanthropy Northwest
Molly Stearns
The Seattle Foundation
Dick Thompson
University of Washington
Bob Watt, Forum Co-Chair
The Boeing Company
Alice Woldt
Church Council of Greater Seattle